



CEE

Coalition for
Employment through
Exports, Inc.

March 16, 2012

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4705

Dear Senator Cantwell:

On behalf of its members, the Coalition for Employment through Exports (CEE) calls on Congress to support the proposed Cantwell-Johnson-Graham-Shelby Amendment to H.R. 3606 providing for the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank of the U.S. (Ex-Im Bank). Ex-Im Bank plays an essential role in leveling the playing field for U.S. exporters, enabling them to compete against the aggressive financial support provided by other export credit agencies on behalf of their exporters. The Bank is currently operating under a temporary extension that expires May 31, 2012.

Exporters are justifiably concerned their lender of last resort – Ex-Im Bank - may be forced to reduce its support for transactions in order to manage its available lending authority while waiting for a reauthorization. Transactions delayed or deferred due to a lack of Ex-Im financing will likely be lost to foreign competitors who are able to readily guarantee full financing from their export credit agencies (ECAs). Numerous prospective buyers of U.S. products have questioned the reliability of the Ex-Im Bank. U.S. credibility, export potential and jobs are at stake.

The Cantwell-Johnson-Graham-Shelby Amendment would remedy this concern by extending the Ex-Im Bank's authorization through 2015 and increasing the lending authority of the Bank to enable tens of thousands of small, medium and large American exporters to compete against aggressive foreign competitors. Ex-Im is a self-sustaining, profitable arm of the U.S. government, returning over \$3.4 billion to the Treasury over the last four years. The CBO score for S. 1547 states that extending the authority of Ex-Im Bank through 2015 will bring the government an additional \$900 million. Ex-Im Bank has always been a bi-partisan issue due to its positive impact on the economy and U.S. companies.

For these reasons, CEE urges the Senate to support this critical jobs Amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hardy Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Hardy Jr.
President

About CEE

CEE is a not for profit association that operates as an educational and advocacy organization on behalf of our members on legislative and regulatory matters affecting U.S. government export finance and assistance programs: the Export Import Bank, OPIC, the Trade and Development Agency and the Commerce Department export promotion programs. We address any legislative or regulatory issue that may affect the ability of U.S. exporters to utilize these programs, thus we are active on: appropriations for these agencies, trade sanctions that may limit these agencies, and multilateral policies that may limit these agencies. Learn more at <http://www.usaexport.org>.